Chapter 199: Securing the Core of Creation

Seated upon the Throne of Shadows, Sung Jin-Woo contemplated his next move. The revelation of the Core of Origin and the Core of Forgotten Truths was both a blessing and a burden. These artifacts were powerful beyond measure, capable of shaping or unraveling existence. Their protection was paramount.

With the vast power of his three hearts—the original, the black, and the dark silver celestial—Sung Jin-Woo resolved to secure the cores within his Shadow World, a realm of absolute control and impenetrable defense.

The Journey to the Void of Origin

Sung Jin-Woo dispatched his first clone, now ascended to near-divine status, to retrieve the Core of Origin. The clone returned to the Void of Origin, retracing its steps through the chaotic labyrinth.

Upon reaching the Core, the clone extended its shadowed hands. The Void responded with resistance, its energies surging to protect the artifact. The first clone invoked the Scepter of Dominion, amplifying its authority to absolute levels, and the Void relented.

The Core of Origin, an immense crystalline sphere radiating primordial energy, was enveloped in shadows and transported safely into the Shadow World.

Returning to the Forgotten Realm

Simultaneously, Sung Jin-Woo entered the Realm of Forgotten Truths himself. The journey through its trials had already been mapped by his clone, allowing him to traverse the labyrinth with ease.

Upon reaching the Core of Forgotten Truths, Jin-Woo activated his Twelve Wings of Dominion, their celestial glow illuminating the swirling darkness of the realm. The Core, recognizing the authority of the Shadow Sovereign, yielded without resistance.

With both cores now under his protection, Jin-Woo exited the realms, leaving behind only silence and emptiness where these ancient relics once resided.

The Shadow Vault

The Shadow World—a dimension of infinite expanse, bound only by Jin-Woo’s will—was the perfect sanctuary for the cores. Within its depths, he created a Shadow Vault, a fortress of unbreakable obsidian, guarded by his most powerful creations.

The vault’s defenses were unparalleled:

1. Eclipse Barrier: A shield formed from overlapping layers of shadow and light, impenetrable by any force.

2. Eternal Sentinels: Gigantic statues imbued with the essences of fallen constellations, serving as tireless guardians.

3. Temporal Distortion: Time within the vault moved at an accelerated rate, making it impossible for intruders to act before being detected.

The Core of Origin and the Core of Forgotten Truths were placed on twin pedestals, their energies stabilized by the Scepter of Dominion.

The Divine Triad’s Council

After securing the cores, Sung Jin-Woo summoned the Divine Triad—Ashborn, the Absolute Celestial Being; and Sung Su-Ho, the Dragon Sovereign—to the Umbra Citadel.

Together, they discussed the implications of possessing such powerful relics.

1. Ashborn: “The cores hold the essence of creation and truth. They are the foundation of existence itself. To protect them is to protect the multiverse.”

2. Sung Su-Ho: “With these secured, no force can challenge our dominion. But we must remain vigilant. There are always those who hunger for power.”

A New Era of Stability

The multiverse trembled at the announcement: the Core of Origin and the Core of Forgotten Truths were now under the guardianship of the Shadow Sovereign. The Divine Triad’s believers, numbering in the centillions, celebrated this victory as a new era of stability and prosperity.

For Sung Jin-Woo, the journey was far from over. The cores were safe, but their secrets remained to be unraveled. Within their depths lay the potential to reshape existence, to correct the multiverse’s flaws, and to elevate all life to new heights.

The Shadow Sovereign, ever-watchful, sat upon his throne, his gaze fixed on the endless possibilities that lay ahead.

For now, the multiverse was safe. But the future? It was his to shape.